

U.S. Appl. No. 09/844,354
Reply to Office Action dated December 29, 2005

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IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus, comprising:
hierarchizing means for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

first providing means for providing at least one of the first information and the second information; and

second providing means for providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.

2. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing means provides the first information or the second information by

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radio or wire communication or by a recording medium, and said second providing means provides the layout information by radio or wire communication or by a recording medium.

3. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing means provides the first information by radio or wire communication when a broadcasting time of a program is changed.

4. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first providing means provides the first information in a superposed relationship with a vertical blanking period of a television signal.

5. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first providing means provides the first information digitally in a superposed relationship with a television signal.

6. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first providing means and said second providing means provide the first information and the second information as well as the layout information digitally by means of radio or wire communication.

7. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing means determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is changed between regular broadcasting and rebroadcasting as the first

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information and determines that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed as the second information.

8. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the first information comprises that information of the electronic program guide information which may change between key station broadcasting and local station broadcasting and the second information comprises that information of the electronic program guide information which is not changed.

9. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said hierarchizing means hierarchizes the second information further into third information which is small in amount and is referred to by the third information and fourth information which is large in amount and is referred to by the first information or the third information.

10. (Original) An information providing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first information is information in units of a program to be broadcast and the third information of the second information includes information for identifying a performer who constructs the program while the fourth information of the second information includes information regarding details of a performer who performs in the program.

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11. (Previously Presented) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information; and

providing layout information from which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a program, the program being operable to perform the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

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wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information; and

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.

13. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus, comprising:

first acquiring means for acquiring at least one of first and second information, the first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; and

producing means for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second

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information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.

14. (Original) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising display means for displaying the electronic program guide information.

15. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said producing means retrieves information from the first information or the second information in response to the layout information and produces the display information in response to the retrieved information and the layout information.

16. (Previously Presented) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said producing means hierarchizes the retrieved information into first intermediate information which relates to contents to be displayed at individual layout positions based on the layout information and into second intermediate information to be referred to by the first intermediate information and designates the first information.

17. (Original) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said producing means sorts the first information to be designated as the second intermediate information.

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18. (Original) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising instructing means for instructing sorting of the first information to be designated as the second intermediate information.

19. (Original) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first or second acquiring means acquires at least one of the first information, the second information and the layout information from a recording medium.

20. (Original) A display controlling apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first or second acquiring means fetches at least one of the first information, the second information and the layout information from data transmitted thereto by radio or wire communication.

21. (Previously Presented) A display controlling method, comprising the steps of:

acquiring at least one of first information and second information, first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on specific broadcasts of a program and the second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

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acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.

22. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a program, the program being operable to perform the steps of:

acquiring at least one of first information and second information, the first information designating predetermined information of electronic program guide information on specific broadcasts of a program and the second information being referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.

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23. (Previously Presented) An information providing system, comprising:

hierarchizing means for hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

first providing means for providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

second providing means for providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

first acquiring means for acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

second acquiring means for acquiring layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen; and

producing means for producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.

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24. (Previously Presented) An information providing method, comprising the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.

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25. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising a program, the program being operable to perform the steps of:

hierarchizing electronic program guide information to be provided into first information which designates predetermined information on specific broadcasts of a program and second information to be referred to by the first information for general information on said program,

wherein the first information, which may change, comprises electronic program guide information, associated with a program; and

wherein the second information, which may not be changed, comprises electronic program guide information associated with a program;

providing at least one of the first information and the second information;

providing layout information which relates to a layout of the electronic program guide information when displayed on a screen;

acquiring at least one of the first information and the second information;

acquiring layout information which relates to a layout when the electronic program guide information is displayed on a screen; and

producing display information to be used to display the electronic program guide information from at least one of the first information and the second information, and the layout information, and wherein the first information and the second information each include a tag to enable data included therein to be associated with the layout information.